

The Jones Library, Inc. Feasibility & Design Committee
Woodbury Room, Jones Library
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:30 -11:30 am

Present: Austin Sarat, Chair (Trustee), Tamson Ely (Trustee), Kent Faerber, Alex Lefebvre (Trustee), Janice Ratner, Lorin Starr, George Hicks (Facilities), Sharon Sharry (Director).

Also present: Jim Alexander and Tony Hsaio of Finegold Alexander Architects (FAA); George Barnes, Owners Project Manager; about 20 members of the public.

- I. Call to Order: Austin called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
- II. Public Comment: Several members of the public asked questions and commented after the presentation.
- III. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of the February 4, 2020 meeting were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.
- IV. Design Update – Alexander (FAA) discussed meeting with the MBLC, departments in town such as planning, and others regarding sustainability, historic tax credits, and other aspects of the project. The MBLC seemed pleased with the improved design. Hsaio (FAA) presented a brief overview of the plans from the beginning, four years ago, and then showed the updated plans for each floor, similar to the plans presented at the last Feasibility and Design Committee meeting, February 4, 2020. He mentioned again that the bulk would be reduced and the back would now extend about 40 feet rather than the original 60 feet. There would be a circular walkway in the front of the building as found in the original building plans and this would also achieve accessibility. There would be a secondary entrance in the rear. He also discussed the shape of the roof and how it is more compatible with the roofline of the original building.

Questions and comments from the committee and the public followed the presentation. These included: the number of stairways and elevators; the large windows on the north side of the building; the teen space; material on the exterior of the new building; changes to comply with historic preservation agreements; food and drink would be allowed in some parts of building, but there is no plan for the Library to provide food and drink; security of special collections; and these designs correct issues of dysfunction (MBLC earlier comment).

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve the revised design and recommend that the architects move forward with the schematics for this design.

- V. Meeting adjourned 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Ratner